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Publishers Weekly®

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AMONG SCHOOLCHILDREN

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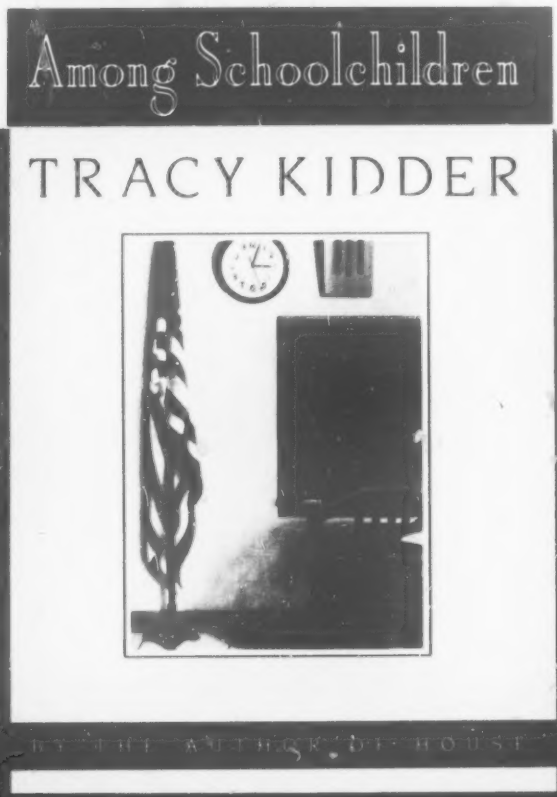

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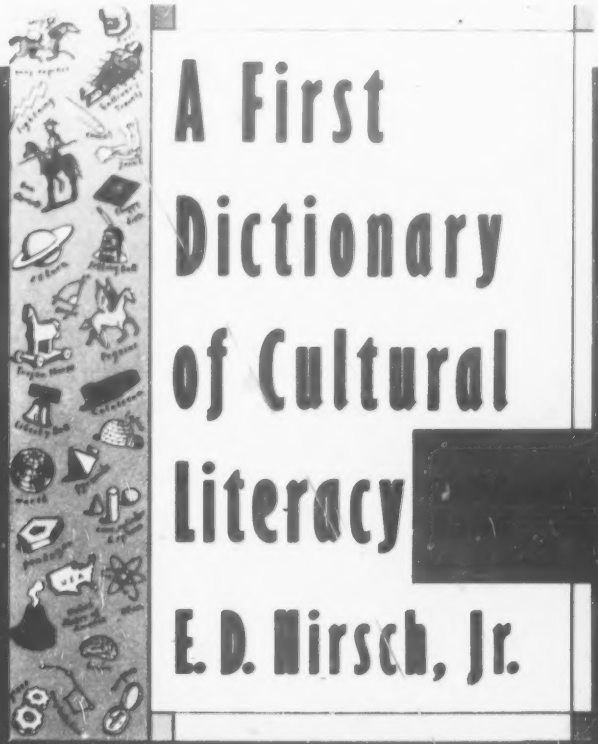

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London Store Again Firebombed

Collets Penguin bookshop on Charing Cross Road in central London, which was firebombed April 9, was hit again in the early hours of July 6. There was extensive damage, but no casualties. Although no group claimed responsibility, police believe the arson was caused by Muslim extremists. Ironically, the store has not been selling *The Satanic Verses* since April.

AAP Sales Report for May

Category	% change, May*	% change, YTD
Adult hardcover	3.9	9.1
Adult paperback	33.2	12.8
Juvenile hardcover	0.3	14.2
Juvenile paperback	22.9	57.3
Univ. pr. hardcover	-7.4	10.5
Univ. pr. paperback	-39.7	14.4
Bibles, etc.	15.5	9.6
Mass market paperback	2.2	0.2
Book club	1.0	2.2
Mail order	5.5	20.2
Sci-tech	4.8	-0.5
College texts	30.2	18.6
School texts	37.1	16.0

**Percent changes measured against same time periods, 1988.*

Random House Expands West Coast Corporate Publicity Office

Random House Inc., which first established a West Coast promotion presence in 1973 in the person of a part-time scout for Knopf who also did publicity, has expanded its California corporate publicity office, making it one of the largest of New York-based publishers.

Suzanne Wickham, West Coast publicity manager for Random House since 1984, will continue representing Random House and Times Books, adding responsibility for Crown Publishing.

Pamela Henstell, West Coast promotion manager for Knopf, who opened the imprint's first formal promotion office in 1975, will also assume responsibilities for Vintage Books and Pantheon Books.

Sally Ann Berk will join the office as West Coast publicity manager for Villard Books. She will also handle other selected Random House Inc. titles. Berk was formerly publicity manager of Villard Books in New York and before that was associate director at the Crown Publishing Group.

In addition, Ballantine Books has recently announced that Liz Williams will join the office as publicity manager for Ballantine/Del Rey/Fawcett/Ivy. Williams was formerly publicity director for Jeremy P. Tarcher Books and prior to that worked at Ballantine in New York.

Of the expansion, Carol Schneider, Random House vice-president and director of publicity, said, "When it comes to author bookings on national shows, we hope to have the same personal relationships there with the *Johnny Carson* and *Pat Sajak* shows that we have here with *New York Today* and *Good Morning America*."

The office is located at 3205 Ocean Park Blvd., Suite 220, Santa Monica, Calif. 90405.

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to subcontract services, said he struck a verbal agreement with Key Book Services in 1987 and signed a formal agreement in April 1988 back-dated to the initial agreement. "There is nothing in my agreement with the publishers that would prevent me from negotiating an arrangement with Key Book Services," he said.

Harold Levine, president of Key Book Services, said, "We're trying to reach a settlement. We've put offers on the table but the publishers initiated this whole mess by tying up the receivables. We are not anxious to put people out of business. We're trying to be reasonable."

Kampmann Criticized

No matter how the court rules, however, this complex case has generated sharp criticism of Eric Kampmann's business practices. *PW* spoke with a number of former clients, including several publishers who originally tried to force him into involuntary bankruptcy in March.

Glen Thompson, president of Writers & Readers, who said he is owed about $78,000 in accounts receivable, asserted that he had not been paid by Kampmann in 15 months and had never had a full accounting of returns. "We publishers have jeopardized ourselves by keeping silent. Eric Kampmann has done an enormous disservice to the industry. What about the thousands of authors affected by this? Books have been sold and the writers want their money. Millions of dollars based on a verbal agreement seems incredible to me. We had a contract with Eric, not with Key Book Services. The bank is a third party, caught in the middle. Eric has gotten away with passing the buck and disregarding the integrity of his agreement with the publishers. The effect on independent publishing is disastrous; now every distribution contract must come under scrutiny."

William Brinton, publisher of Mercury House Publishing, asked, "Why does Kampmann keep getting good press after his demonstrated incompetence? He represented to me that this warehouse was a marvel—it wasn't, and I was appalled. His conduct has been inexcusable. We haven't totaled all our losses, but it will be a lot."

Jennifer Moyer, president of Moyer Bell Ltd., said her company had removed its books before the court order, but that Kampmann was "totally irresponsible. When he moved to Bridgeport we knew it was the beginning of the end. We got complaints weekly from bookstores. Everyone was astonished how screwed up the warehouse was. He was always late paying, and appeared to pay people arbitrarily. And you had to ask him for money—that's just not right. Eric has hurt a lot of people, and I don't think he's accepted resonsibility for some terribly damaging decisions."

John Calder, president of Riverrun Press, and Claudia Menza, Riverrun office manager, said the company was owed $30,000 in accounts receivable but had removed their books from the warehouse before the order. They dictated a litany of late payments, incorrect payments and unauthorized deductions.

Regnery, who said his company was owed about $800,000 by Kampmann, observed: "He's a great salesman but he's not a very good businessman."

Kampmann told *PW*, "I'm afraid that the late and erratic payments are all true, but you have to put them in a context. I was in a severe financial crisis. In hindsight I should have made radical changes in the business when I was the only one sitting on the losses, and now others have been drawn in. I fault myself; I signed agreements that were unprofitable. I don't think I was irresponsible. I tried to make adjustments rather than go out of business." —CALVIN REID